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3 Linked to JDL Held In Hurok Bombing Case

NEW YORK, June 16 (UPI) — Three young members of the militant Jewish Defense League were charged today with a fire-bombing that killed a secretary and injured 13 persons at the office of impresario Sol Hurok, prime mover of cultural exchanges with the Soviet Union.

Rabbi Meir Kahane, head of the JDL, later accused the federal government of concocting an "incredible frame." He desicribed the youths as "nice Jewish boys" and said they were "absolutely innocent."

Stewart Cohen, 19, Sheldon Davis, 19, and Sheldon Siegel, 25, all of New York City, were charged with "damaging and destroying a facility used in interstate commerce," a federal offense which could carry the death penalty because of the death of the secretary. They were ordered held on $35,000 bail each.

A complaint signed by an FBI agent said a "reliable informant" was present at meetings during which the three allegedly "planned the bombings and constructed the incendiary devices."

Another JDL member, Jeffrey Smilow, 17, also of New York City, was indicted on state charges along with the others for a similar and almost simultaneous fire at another building involved in Soviet exchanges.

The fire-bombings last Jan. 26 wrecked the offices of Hurok, called the father of American-Soviet cultural exchanges, and Columbia Artists Management. They occurred minutes after the newsm edia received calls saying the blasts were in protest of "the deaths and imprisonment of Soviet Jews." The calls concluded with the JDL slogan, "Never Again."

The JDL has conducted numerous demonstrations aimed at pressuring the Soviet Union into allowing Russian Jews to go to Israel.

Authorities said Cohen had been arrested last year for the bombing of the offices of Amtorg, the Soviet trade organization.